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Sen. Stamas and colleagues shield schools from proposed cut

LANSING – State Sen. Tony Stamas, R-Midland, said the state Senate Wednesday transferred \$50.1 million from the General Fund to the School Aid Fund to protect schools from a \$28-per-pupil funding cut proposed by the governor.

“Reductions in the funding of our children’s education are not matters to be taken lightly,” Stamas said. “Education has always been a top priority of mine and my colleagues. We should not make such drastic cuts this late in the school year. We must remain dedicated to providing Michigan’s children with the best education possible.”

Unless the Legislature passed a cigarette-tax increase by June 15, Gov. Jennifer Granholm threatened to cut per-pupil funding to schools.

Senate Bill 1194 transfers \$50.1 million from the state’s General Fund/General Purpose Budget to the School Aid Fund, filling a projected shortfall in school funding for the 2004 fiscal year budget.

The reduction in the General Fund/General Purpose budget will be addressed as lawmakers continue to work to balance the 2004 and 2005 budgets.

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